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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 25, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for November 25, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

HURRIYET / ZAMAN: Upon receiving a tip-off that a PKK militant was readying to launch an attack, Istanbul Intelligence and Anti-Terror Branch Directorate conducted operations in Istanbul's Gaziosmanpasa and Eminonu districts and caught two people, who were allegedly procuring arms for the PKK. 24 Glock-, one CZ-75-, one Sig Sauer-, two Baretta- and one Ceska-brand shotguns, 19 spare clips, 150 cartridges and two blank cartridge guns were seized during the operation. Two people caught were arraigned. In a separate operation conducted in an unspecified location, four alleged PKK militants were caught.

HURRIYET: Turkish Parliament's Commission for Probing Honor Killings, started scrutinizing the elderly female members of the families, as well, because, according to the opinions of the academic faculty members and experts, mothers and mother-in-laws are also backing the honor killing practices within the family and are in fact very influential in the honor killing decision processes of the family gatherings.

ZAMAN / HURRIYET: Turkey reportedly sent to Denmark several times evidence of Roj TV's affiliation with the PKK. Turkey claimed that a minimum of 18 of the programs that were aired on pro-PKK Medya TV and MED TV, whose broadcasts were already banned by France and the UK respectively because of the station's reported PKK affiliation, were now being aired in Roj TV under different titles but with the same content and same people.

HURRIYET: Van Chief Prosecutor's Office (VCPO) extended the scope of the investigation about the Semdinli case. Prosecutor's Office will investigate both the gang allegations and the possibility that there might be a PKK provocation in the incident. VCPO will look into the alleged contact and phone calls between Seferi Yilmaz, the owner of the bookstore which was bombed, and Murat Karayilan, a senior PKK official.

RADIKAL / HURRIYET / ZAMAN: Erdogan Gurbuz, Hakkari Governor, who has been assigned as a governor to another central Anatolian province recently, said that this change of place was a normal practice of the government and could even be regarded as a promotion since he assumed the responsibilities of a bigger province.

HURRIYET: Government's second "Security Summit" will be held today and PM Erdogan will chair it. The first one was held immediately after the incidents and demonstrations that followed the Semdinli bombing, which took place on November 9.

ZAMAN: Zaman daily reported that Prof. Ugur Oral, the rector of Mersin University, had allegedly informed the YOK (Higher Education Board) against the faculty members during Kemal Guruz's chairmanship. Allegedly, Oral wrote a November 2000 dated letter to the YOK and warned YOK against 'separatist activities' of some of the scientists, the press and the Adana American Consulate.

ZAMAN: Reportedly, Diyarbakir Dicle University Rector, Prof. Fikri Canoruc, dismissed nine professors from the university allegedly on the grounds that the professors formed an opposing stance against him (the rector). One of the professors dismissed was reportedly the rival of Canoruc during the rector elections.

ZAMAN: Semdinli Prosecutor reportedly said that he would not have released Ali Kaya and Ozcan Ildeniz, the two soldiers, who were caught by the local people and detained following the Semdinli bombing, had the prosecutor possessed at that time the evidence he has now. Sources from the Prosecutor's Office reportedly said that the case would be handled under terror-related cases, and the possibility that it would be handled under criminal network/gang cases was weak.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The daily claimed that the government was feigning as if it was trying to resolve the case in a determined manner; but prior similar cases, such as the 1996 Susurluk case and the Yuksekova Gang case, proved that such cases were deliberately forgotten in the course of time.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The police, conducting raids on houses in Adana, detained three people. These people were reportedly detained on charges that they participated in an October 9 protest activity in Adana against the arrest of terrorist leader Abdullah Ocalan in 1999.

RADIKAL: Reportedly, 3345 women have applied to women's organizations on grounds that they were subjected to violence this year. Nebahat Akkoc, Chairperson of KAMER (Center for Women), said that 2235 women have applied to KAMER's Emergency Line this year with complaints of violence they suffered.

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